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California's Natural Wildlands Legacy

North Coast

Bureau of Land Management
California

The rugged coastal region from Mendocino County to the Oregon border contains some of the most dramatic scenery in the state. BLM manages thousands of acres for recreation, conservation and preservation.

These diverse lands include the towering redwoods and fragile ecosystems of the Headwaters Forest Reserve near Fortuna, critical wildlife habitat at Gilham Butte, the spectacular coastline of the King Range National Conservation Area, important fisheries in the Eel and Trinity rivers, and a system of old growth reserves where forests are managed for habitat and ecosystem values.

Headwaters Forest Reserve

In a closely-watched transaction in March 1999, BLM and the state of California acquired 7,400 acres of redwood forest for public ownership from a private timber company. The acquisition, later to be known as the Headwaters Forest Reserve, is jointly managed by BLM and the California Department of Fish and Game to protect ecological and wildlife values. The 2,738-acre grove of old-growth redwoods in the heart of the Reserve are surrounded by younger redwood trees. The 300-acre Elk Head Springs Grove of old-growth redwoods is found on the eastern end of the Reserve. The Reserve provides habitat for threatened and endangered species including the marbled murrelet, a seabird that depends on these trees for survival.

Public access to the reserve is currently allowed under interim management guidelines designed to protect the natural values for which it was acquired. Continued public access to the area will be addressed in a long-term management plan that will be developed with full public involvement.

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King Range - The First NCA

Southwest of the Headwaters Forest Reserve is the 60,000-acre King Range National Conservation Area, the first of the nation's NCAs. The focal point is 26-miles of spectacular, undeveloped coastline. The remoteness of the region inspired its name, the "Lost Coast." BLM management of the NCA has continued to evolve with changing public expectations and increasing back country hiking and backpacking. BLM manages the King Range for a variety of public uses, with an emphasis on preserving the west slope for its primitive wilderness characteristics.

Gilham Butte - Redwoods to the Sea

A recent acquisition of 2,234 acres of old growth forest near Gilham Butte culminated 20 years of local effort spearheaded by a coalition known as Friends of Gilham Butte. Protection of large blocks of contiguous habitat is a major step in halting the fragmentation of old growth, low elevation Douglas fir forests. With Gilham Butte now over 5,000 acres, the acquisition represents an unparalleled opportunity to protect two complementary components of ancient forests connecting the watersheds of the Eel and Mattole rivers and extending to the coast.

Samoa Dunes

In cooperation with partners from the environmental community and motorized recreation interests, BLM is working to find balance between off-highway vehicle recreation and protection of sensitive plants and their habitat at the Samoa Peninsula. A restoration cooperative effort, began in 1989, continues to provide for recreation uses while protecting fragile dune ecosystems.

Old Growth Reserves

Under provisions of the Northwest Forest Plan, BLM's Arcata Field office manages a series of forested areas called late successional reserves. In these areas, old growth trees are managed for the habitat they provide and the critical role they play in the survival of numerous animal species, some of which are threatened or endangered.

"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Aldo Leopold

Your lands....*Your legacy!*

A popular place for OHV enthusiasts, 40 acres of the Samoa Dunes Recreation Area has been set aside to protect and research native plants, with enphasis on the endangered Humboldt Bay wallflower

A spectacular meeting of land and sea is the dominant feature of the King Range National Conservation Area

The 7,400 acre Headwaters Forest Reserve, acquired for public ownership from a private lumber company, includes more than 3,000 acres of old-growth redwoods

Goals for the North Coast

Interspersed among California's most productive, managed timberlands, BLM provides stewardship for a network of conservation areas and reserves to protect old-growth forests, coastal dunes, and sensitive watersheds.

Partnerships

Save the Redwoods League

Friends of Gilham Butte

Mattole Restoration Council

Sanctuary Forest Inc.

Wildlife Conservation Board

Paul Allen Foundation

Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy

Redwood Community Action Agency

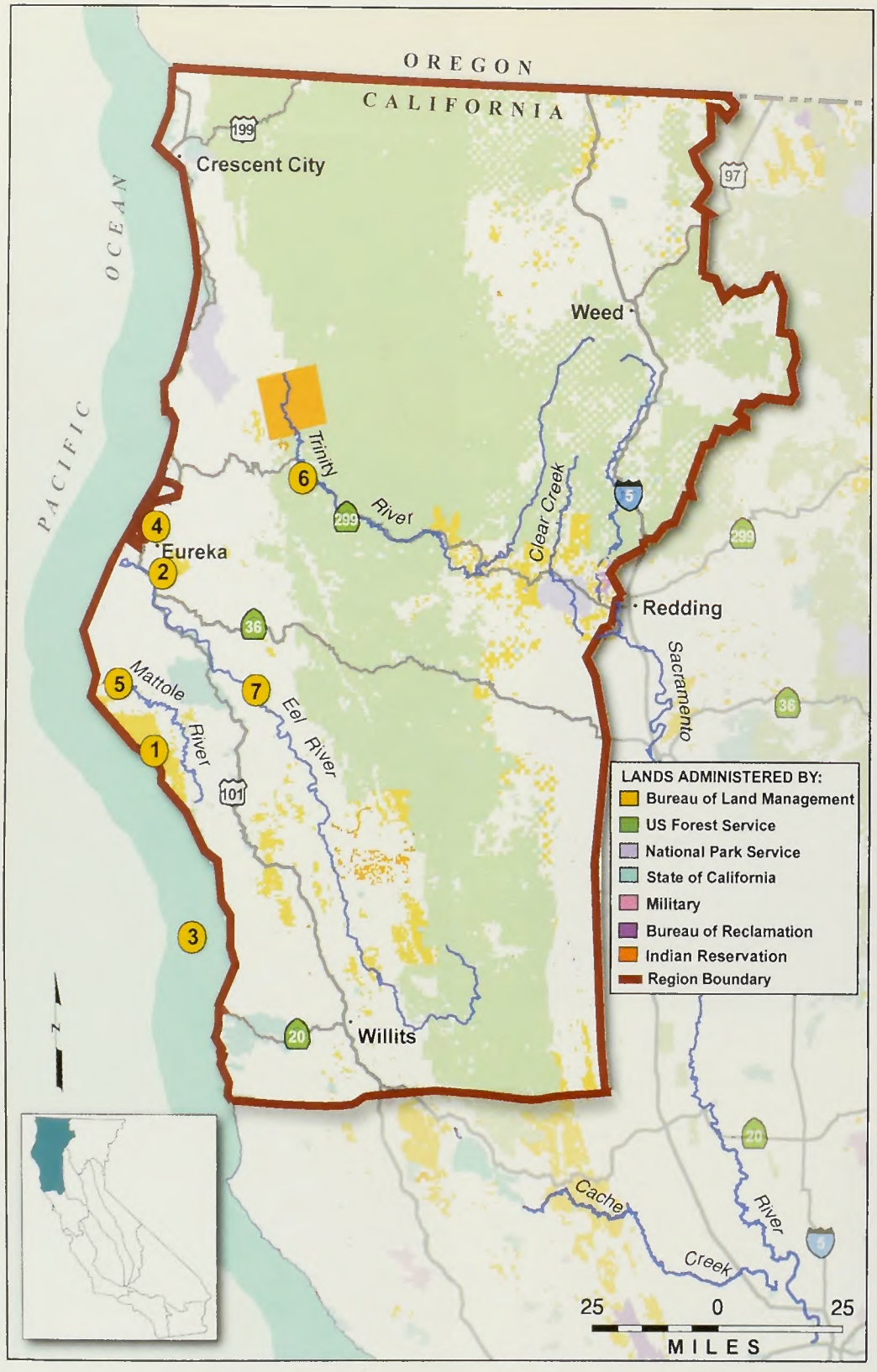
Lost Coast 4x4s

Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association

Mattole Salmon Group

Key Assets of the North Coast

- Headwaters Forest Reserve
- King Range National Conservation Area
- California Coastal National Monument
- Samoa Dunes
- Mattole River Watershed
- Trinity River Watershed
- Eel River Watershed
- Gilham Butte



1. King Range National Conservation Area
2. Headwaters Forest Reserve
3. California Coastal National Monument
4. Samoa Dunes
5. Mattole River Watershed
6. Trinity River Watershed
7. Eel River Watershed

North Coast

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